

REMARKS

Claims 26-37 are pending in the application. Claims 22-25 having been canceled without prejudice and claims 35-37 being newly added herein. The specification and claims have been amended to overcome the objections and rejections of the Office Action, and Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully solicits a Notice of Allowance.

Specifically, the objections to the specification have been analyzed and amendments to overcome such objections have been made except in two instances. The objection to page 180, bottom line, is improper because the word "pending" is not in that line. Secondly, the objection to lines 3-4 on page 310 is misplaced because the terms "provider" and "routing" can be interpreted to have the same meaning when taken in the context of the application and the Internet.

A reconsideration of the rejection under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness - type double patenting, with respect to claims 26 - 37 as now presented, is respectfully requested. The Official Action of 08/29/2000 in section 4 at page 3, takes the position that the effective filing date for the claims is 10/5/95. Under these circumstances, it is urged that the proper expiration date for claims 26 - 37 is twenty years from this effective filing date, i.e. 10/5/2015. Further applicant respectfully submits that patent claim 20 of USP 5,726,984 is limited to an entirely different invention than claims 26 - 37 herein; note for example the limitation in patent claim 20 of USP 5,726,984 at col. 106, lines 3,4, and 5, (the last clause of patent claim 15, which along with patent claims 18 and 19, is included as part of patent claim 20). In an effort to expedite allowance, and to fully

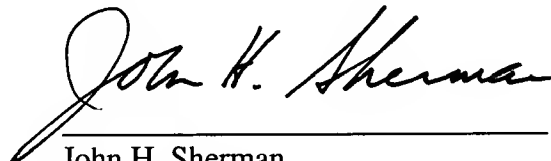
respond to the Official Action so far as seems equitable to the Applicant, a terminal disclaimer is being presented for assuring that ownership of the patent to be granted hereon will not become separate from the ownership of the prior patent 5,726,984

In addition, the claims have been amended according to the request of the Examiner. Allowed claim 26 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of its rejected base claim 22, claim 22 having been canceled. Claim 27 was amended to correct its dependency in view of the amendment to claim 26. Claims 23-25 were canceled and added as new claims 35-37 having corrected dependencies in view of amended claim 26, and claims 28 and 29 were amended to include the word "the" in front of the word "Internet."

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments, and for various other reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 26-37 present allowable subject matter, and a Notice of Allowance is courteously solicited. If any impediment to the allowance of the claims remains after entry of this Amendment, and such impediment could be alleviated during a telephone interview, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully Submitted,



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Enclosures: